

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 are presented for consideration, with Claim 1 being independent.

Initially, Applicants note with appreciation that Claims 1 and 2 are allowed.

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the reasons set forth on page 2 of the Office Action. In response to this rejection, Claim 3 has been amended to depend from Claim 2 and provide better antecedent basis for the “hand.”

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner’s attention is directed to the document listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of the listed document is also enclosed.

Japanese Document No. 2002-103298 relates to an electron microscope that includes a manipulator 10. As shown in Figures 2 and 5, the manipulator includes fingers for holding a minute sample.

Accompanying this paper is a check for \$180.00 pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c) and §1.17(p).

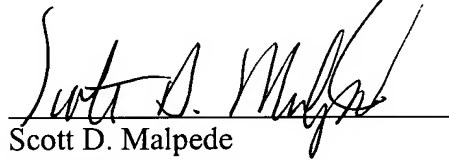
It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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